JUNE 2009 ISSUE NO. 459

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's





RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30
 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Mike Murphy WA4BPJ, 2009 RARS Field Day Chair **Field Day 2009**

What's the name of the premier operating event of the year? You know, it's the most fun you can have without breaking the law. Field day, of course! Well, get ready because it's only a few short weeks away and you don't want to miss it. This year, field day will be held on the weekend of June 27 and 28. Where is it? Thanks to Jim N4CAE and Beth Carroll KF4QMR, RARS will once again have access to one of the finest field day sites for a large operation. Located in southwestern Wake county, the Carroll property provides a huge, open grassy field with plenty of strategically located large trees. It's perfect for wire antennas and has ample room for plenty of separation between the skyhooks.

Each year, RARS puts in a major field day effort, usually operating in class 7A. This year will be no exception. There's a wealth of field day information on the RARS website. Take your browser to www.rars.org and follow the field day link on the main page. You'll find maps to the site, e-mail contact links for the band captains, a list of the bonus point categories with details of the specific requirements linked to each category, a site map with antenna aiming information, FAQs and more.

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Next RARS Meeting

The June RARS program will be an update on Field Day 2009 with Mike Murphy WA4BPJ.

Many of you are field day veterans, but for those of you new to ham radio, field day is a contest sponsored each summer by the American Radio Relay League. It's open to all U.S. and Canadian amateurs and is a test of operating skills and emergency preparedness. The ARRL says it best in the rules:

"Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12 meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio."

The spirit of field day is to set up and operate without commercial power and without using pre-existing stations or antennas. It's what you get when you combine fast-paced contesting with camping! It's a guaranteed recipe for fun! It's no wonder that thousands of hams from the U.S. and Canada participate.

The goal is to work as many stations as possible in the 24-hour period from 2 PM Saturday until 2 PM Sunday. The focus is on HF operation, but there is a place for VHF, UHF, packet, and even satellite operation. Sharp operating skills with an emphasis on persistence and patience are the keys to success. Bedlam will reign on the bands that weekend! If you've never operated HF before, this is a great opportunity to get your feet wet. It looks like we will be operating 7A again with phone operations on 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters, CW on 160, 80, 40, and 20 meters plus a digital station, a GOTA or Get-on-the-Air station and a VHF station. Each station is organized by a band captain, a person that plans and coordinates the setup and operation of the station. Most of the band captains are still looking for help. Operators are needed, as well as folks that can help setup and take down the antennas and equipment. The rules allow setup to start 24 hours before field day, so Friday the 26th at 2 PM marks the start of the fun!

If you are a new ham, long inactive or have no license at all, the GOTA (Get On The Air) station is there for you. Coached by experienced hams, this is the place to get your feet wet. With an easy going pace and gentle guidance, it's the place to experience the excitement of field day and have your questions answered in a no-pressure atmosphere.

Often there are only a few hundred points between first and third place, and it's not unusual for the class leader to actually have fewer contacts than the other top groups in the class. The keys are CW and digital operation, which give twice the points per contact as phone, and earning the bonus points. You can make a big contribution to the RARS operation by earning the points in one of the bonus categories. The website lists all the

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categories and their requirements. Please look them over and consider signing up to get the points in one of the categories.

Now that your chomping at the bit to get started, here's the list of stations and their band captains. If you can help in any way, please contact one of them directly and be sure to consider signing up for one of the bonus point categories. If you're not sure how you can help or you just have some questions, please contact me, Mike WA4BPJ at fd09@nc.rr.com. You can visit the RARS website and click on the links to e-mail any of the band captains.

160 CW & 80CW	Johnnie WA9SZL	wa9szl@aol.com
80PH & 15PH	Cliff W4FT	w4ft@nc.rr.com
40 CW	Neal N4HAF	n4haf@nc.rr.com
40 PH	Sharon KD4ACK	fd09@nc.rr.com
20 CW	Chuck K4HF	k4hf@arrl.net
20 PH	Bob W4TTX	rstarken2@bellsouth.net
Digital	James KE4DRN	ke4drn_james@bellsouth.net
GOTA	Gary KN4AQ	kn4aq@arrl.net
VHF	Dave K4SAN	k4san@bellsouth.net

Well, that about wraps it up. I trust you have the field day fever like me. There's only one cure, so I hope to see you there!

Upcoming Hamfests				
6/6	Georgia State Convention Marietta, GA http://talipsky.com/AtlantaHamfest/	6/13	The Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest Winston-Salem, NC http://www.w4nc.com/	
6/13	TN State Convention Knoxville, TN http://www.w4bbb.org/	6/14	The Manassas Hamfest Manassas,VA	

RARS OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT

Selene Montgomery KG4RMT 919.577.1254 kg4rmt@earthlink.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Karl Bowman W4CHX 919.669.6068 w4chx@arrl.net

SECRETARY

Charles Swindell WB4DCM 919.848.0410 wb4dcm@arrl.net

TREASURER

Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919.859.0029 ke4pax@arrl.net



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July I through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month Location: First Alliance Church 4400 Buffaloe Road Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the I46.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.

VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit

www.rars.org for more information.



Cliff Broughton W4FT How Far Should Your Go Kit Go?

You might be thinking about putting together a "go-kit" for emergencies or public service work and have been making a list of all the stuff to put in it, and the list is getting bewildering. Maybe you put a go-kit together, but you're not sure if you have the right gear. Did you ask yourself this, "What's my goal or purpose for this go-kit?"

For food, water and other supplies, there are a number of resources that can give guidance on what to include. RARS usually has an annual presentation at one of the club meetings on the subject. For radio equipment, there are a lot of sources that give very long and thorough lists of gear to have ready. But that comes later.

Before you pull every last piece of radio gear together, ask yourself one question: What is this go-kit for? Are you using it for public service work? Is it for emergency communications in case of an emergency? Is the emergency a local event such as a fire, an ice storm or a search and rescue event? Is it a wide area event such as a hurricane? Is this to operate from home or a remote site? Are you planning to operate as a net control station or merely as one of the elements of the net? Will communications need to be local, distant, or both? If distance communications is needed, how far?

Your answers will start moving you towards more hardware-related questions. What bands will you NEED to operate? HF? VHF/UHF? Both? More? What modes – voice, CW, digital? Do you need to be able to operate with no reliance on power mains? I could go on indefinitely. All of these questions will help answer the last question – What do I need to have in my kit to implement the answers to these questions?

The point of this article is to make you think about what level of operability you want to have, and then to create the go-kit appropriate for it. For example, a person who is functioning regularly as a shadow for event officials at local public service events may need nothing more than a good HT, an extra battery, a charger and a pad and paper for their go-kit. Traveling very light is key. The net control op for those events may need a more extensive setup that will solidly hit the area repeaters or work simplex with all the operators in the event – a mobile radio, coax, a portable antenna and mast kit, power gel cells or a small generator, a tent, and assorted cabling and accessories. It may be desirable to build a temporary station into a purpose-designed case.

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On the other extreme, a full blown station for HF and VHF operation during a national or regional emergency (or Field Day) may mean something as simple as an lcom 706, a dipole and feed line rolled up on a spool, a 37 amp-hour battery and a 2 meter mag-mount antenna with a cookie sheet for a ground plane. It could also mean something as extensive as a purpose build communications trailer with one or more generators, different HF,VHF and UHF antennas, and all the supplies and amenities needed for food, sleep and shelter for two or more people for at least 4 days that could be deployed anywhere at a moment's notice. Some of the more intrepid hams will have several go-kits available for different levels of deployment.

For most people, a go-kit appropriate for VHF/UHF deployment at any remote location gets the job done. As a core kit, this would include a dual band mobile radio with a power level in the 20 to 50 watts maximum power level, a dual-band antenna, enough coax to put the antenna outside on a pole or some other location, and a way to mount the antenna. For the antenna, this could be as simple as a J-pole made from twinlead or it could be a commercially manufactured antenna with radials that can be disassembled and stored in a reasonably small package — usually the plastic pouch that many are packaged in today. Don't forget the antenna support. This could be a rope sufficient to suspend an antenna from a tree with a way to get the rope into or over the tree, a temporary mast kit and accessories, or whatever you might need to put an antenna up.

The bottom line is simple. Decide what capability your go-kit should be able to do, select the must-have equipment to accomplish this, and then add in the extras that might make the station more efficient at doing what you need to do. Last, if it is something that won't help, does it belong in this kit or in the "Gee, this would be nice to have handy" box? Finally, remember the golden rule for engineers and hams...KISS: Keep It Simple, Stupid!;-)

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary April 21, 2009 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh. There were 13 members present.

President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM. The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved as distributed. The Board minutes of February 17, 2009 should reflect the following statement by Gary KN4AQ: "Public Information Officer Gary KN4AQ and NC ARRL State Government Liaison Bob K4RLC were at the Legislature today. Senate Bill 12, before the Senate Commerce Committee, would prohibit cell phone use in vehicles in motion and Bob wanted to be sure that it did not by default include amateur radio. At his request, a specific exemption for amateur radio was included. SB-12 is not expected to pass. House Bill 68 which affects 'texting while driving' is still in the works."

President Selene asked that VP Karl W4CHX be prepared to cover the May 5th meeting in the event of her absence.

VP Karl W4CHX announced that the program for the May meeting will be Bill K4ClA doing a presentation on QSL cards. The June program will be station grounding techniques by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC. For April, we broke even on the refreshment expenses. We need about \$42 per month to cover the cost of refreshments.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present and anticipates missing the May meeting. However, he has indicated that the new budget is not ready. We have 266 members. Therein followed some discussion of capital projects, meeting expenses, and loss of interest income.

Committee Reports:

• John AI4RT Hamfest Chairman indicated that preliminary count of attendance for the RARSFest was 1664, 15 short of last year. He reported receiving positive comments particularly from vendors who were happy about our increased security visibility. John would like to hold a post mortem of the hamfest the last Monday in May (25th). The workers party is set for Sunday, (Continued on next page)

May 24th at Lake Crabtree. There was extensive discussion about having the hamfest on the second Saturday of April and availability of the Expo Building on an ongoing basis.

- Mike WA4BPJ Education Committee reported that a Tech Class will be taught on Saturdays April 25th and May 9th. The exam will be given on the afternoon of the 9th. Please invite any possible students to the class.
- President Selene requested that we send any articles or other information to Courtney for the Exciter.
- President Selene announced that Mary KG4OQA is looking for a Saturday night net control for the 8:00 PM 146.64 net.
- Hank K4HM Web Master was complimented for his work on the RARS web page.
- Mike WA4BPJ Field Day Chair advised that we would be at the same location as last year. So far he has contacted past band captains and they are agreeing to volunteer again. We will have our usual meals. There was brief discussion about the correct fire extinguishers for each generator. We should invite all of our previous students in our Tech Classes to attend field day.
- The VE team sent a note to President Selene stating that the VE exams given at the RARSFest were very successful. There was some discussion about which doors from the lobby to the hamfest area should have been locked and which should not have been open. In addition, some potential ticket purchasers were apparently sent to the wrong doors. It was decided that what we need for next year is some BIG signs to properly direct folks.
- John AI4RT Public Service advised that the Triangle Walk will be April 25th and the Tour de Cure will be June 6th & 7th. Volunteers are needed.
- Gary KN4AQ FM Repeaters was not present. However, he has indicated that the filters have not been installed in the repeater but anticipates that it will be mid-May.

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 Chuck K4HF advised that the Red Cross has requested the assistance of the ham operators for NC State Fair in May. You do not need to have completed the FEMA courses to help out with this project.

Old Business:

- President Selene reminded everyone of the insurance update that we were to have tonight but with Treasurer Greg out it is not available. We hope to have it at a future meeting.
- Steve KJ4BX has trained individuals to operate the sound system at the First Alliance Church.
- Mike KB7NLA announced that he was able to get the repeater to make hamfest announcements. He did experience some issues when he had to use his power supply for other things.

New Business:

- VP Karl W4CHX advised that Danny K4ITL will receive that Ham of the Year award at the Dayton Ham Fest. He thought that to show our support, we should make Danny an honorary member of RARS. Karl made the motion that in accordance with our constitution, that Danny be awarded honorary membership subject to a vote at the general meeting. The motion was seconded by Hank K4HM. There being no discussion, the motion was passed.
- Mike KB7NLA suggested that for a program, we have folks bring in home brew projects for kind of a show and tell. There was some discussion about how to do this and to possibly include it with other program ideas.

Board Comments:

- VP Karl stated that he was very impressed with our RARSFest and complimented the chair, John Al4RT.
- Ken KI4OTO stated the antenna construction table was very busy and generated favorable comments. He also advised that the test table was utilized more than last year.

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 Mike KB7NLA advised that the special events station was much better received and that many folks were hanging around having eye ball QSO's. Is more space available? Also, the Youth Lounge folks came over and increased the operation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary May 5, 2009 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Raleigh. There were 38 members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by VP Karl W4CHX. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following announcements:

- The RARS monthly supper meeting will be Tuesday, May 12; most recently, those supper meetings have been held at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue/Hwy 70. Please check the nightly RARS net or www.rars.org for further information.
- The upcoming hamfest schedule is listed in the Exciter and on the RARS website.
- John AI4RT made comments about the RARSFest.
- John Al4RT advised of upcoming opportunities for public service.
- The RARS Board of Directors met on April 21, 2009 and several items were reported to the members:
 - The June, 2009 program will include an update on the Field Day activities by Mike WA4BPJ; and, grounding techniques by Alan AB4OZ and Clyde WB2EYC.

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- Our treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present but we anticipate having our budget for discussion at the next Board meeting followed by presentation to the membership at the June 2009 meeting.
- Mike WA4BPJ Field Day chair reported to the Board that the event would be at that same location as last year; that past band captains were contacted and agreed to volunteer again; we will have the usual meals; and, the correct type of fire extinguishers will need to be placed by each generator. (Note: It was indicated later that a band captain for the 80/160 meter station may need to be identified; see comments below).
- Honorary membership will be discussed below.

The next big issue of discussion was granting Honorary Membership in RARS to Wade D. ("Danny") Hampton, Jr. K4ITL.At the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, Danny will be awarded 2009 Amateur of the Year. Based on Danny's contributions to RARS and to amateur radio, the Board of Directors recommended Honorary Membership in RARS and forwarded this recommendation to the membership for discussion and approval. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded that Wade D. ("Danny") Hampton, Jr. K4ITL be granted Honorary Membership in RARS. The vote was unanimous. Several recommendations from the floor were made regarding an award plaque and cash prize: these items as well as proposed presentation date will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Richard KB4TKQ advised that he would be unable to participate in field day. However, Johnny WA9SZL would be using his trailer, with A/C and that anyone wishing to help, should contact Johnny.

Bill McDowell K4CIA was introduced. First licensed in 1955, he moved to NC in 1965 to attend graduate school at the UNC School of Public Health. He worked in public health for 33 years and retired in 1998. Bill currently lives in North Raleigh. Although Bill has been involved in almost all aspects of amateur radio, he remains most interested in DXing. Bill began by asking if we remember our first QSL. He held up his first which was a W8 from Michigan. Later, on a trip to Michigan a car passed him that had a call sign tag. Sure enough it was his first QSL. What are the odds of that? QSL cards are collected for two basic reasons:

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for awards or for personal satisfaction. Bill uses a computer logging program. According to his computer log, he has 16,000 QSL cards. At one point, Bill had two call signs. His second call was K4PU. That call sign was a stinker.

Just sending a card to a DX station is not sufficient. An SASE is great, but remember that a foreign station cannot use US postage. An IRC (international return coupon) can be purchased at the post office and included with your QSL. You can QSL through a bureau, but that is incredibly slow and may not result in a return QSL. Bill sometimes sends a \$2 bill. They are kind of unique and will usually generate a return card. There is a service that for a fee will forward all of your QSL's to foreign station's managers. If you use an incoming bureau, please be sure to keep an envelope on file with proper postage.

Logbook of the World (LoTW) is sponsored by ARRL and is a good way to confirm QSO's. Bill states it is a little tricky getting set up, but once in the program, it is great. eQSL is not accepted for many awards.

Bill's presentation was very interesting and well presented. Those of you that send OSL's should have been here.

President Selene KG4RMT reminded everyone of the DurHamFest which will be held on Saturday, May 23; for further information see www.dfma.org. Karl W4CHX thanked everyone for the contributions for the snacks. Our visitor, Mark KJ4LDD was recognized. Hans W2UF and Larry K4LXV won the door prize drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Welcome to RARS!

Chuck Campen KC4JGI TC Collins KJ4LKF

April 2009 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 360 Special Interest Nets:

Traffic: 25/20 Checkins: 65 Minutes: 388 Minutes: 520 Sessions: 30 Sessions: 12

June Birthdays				
Bob	KIRCB	6/ I		
Dawn	KD4EVV	6/3		
Gwen	KF4EUT	6/5		
Shelby	NC4SH	6/6		
Kelly	AE4FG	6/8		
Harold	KJ4HTA	6/9		
Charles	NZ0I	6/11		
Jack	KF4EZT	6/17		
Wayne	KD4SLQ	6/19		
William	W4AK	6/2 I		
Steve	KA8HXX	6/2 I		
Bobbie	KD4ZVW	6/22		
Marian	KIMRB	6/24		
Lanny	KILEC	6/24		

Local Amateur Radio Nets

The RARS Technical & Trader's Net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

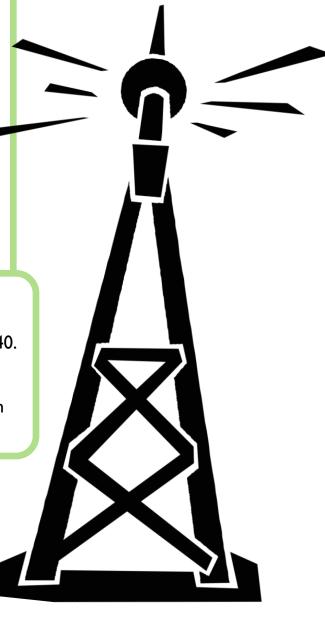
Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the I46.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening** (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) **Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in

addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the RARS Two-Meter Net. You

can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

June 2: "Safe Boating Weather Tips" with NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

June 23: "Family Disaster Plans" presented by NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

The **PCTN** (**Piedmont Costal Traffic Net**) meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The Wake County ARES

Net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.
This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System.
Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www. carolina440.net.

Congratulations, Danny Hampton, Jr. K4ITL on being named the 2009 Amateur of the Year!

Find out more about Danny's award!



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